

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 24-37, 46-68 and 77-85 are pending in the application. Claims 24-37 and 46-68 have been allowed. Claims 38-45 and 69-76 have been cancelled. Claim 77 has been amended. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification and original claims (*see*, for instance, Example 4, page 304, line 6, to page 307, line 8, showing, by two assays, that polypeptides of the invention have thrombospondin activity). These amendments are believed place the claims in better condition for allowance and introduce no new matter. Thus, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 38-45 and 69-85 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for alleged lack of enablement. The Examiner has maintained a previous argument from the Office Action dated December 4, 2001 in the July 2, 2002 Advisory Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Solely to advance prosecution and not in acquiescence to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 38-45 and 69-76 and have amended claim

77. As per the Examiner's suggestion, claim 77, from which claims 78-85 depend, now recites "wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having thrombospondin activity."

Accordingly, Applicants assert that the rejection is moot and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

In the Claims:

Claims 38-45 and 69-76 have been cancelled.

Claim 77 has been amended as follows:

77. (once amended) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 wherein said polynucleotide encodes a polypeptide having thrombospondin activity.